



BILLING CODE: 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Child Nutrition Programs: Income Eligibility Guidelines

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Department's annual adjustments to the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk for the period from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. These guidelines are used by schools, institutions, and facilities participating in the National School Lunch Program (and Commodity School Program), School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program for Children, Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program. The annual adjustments are required by section 9 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The guidelines are intended to direct benefits to those children most in need and are revised annually to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index.

DATES: Implementation date: July 1, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jessica Saracino, Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division, Child Nutrition Programs, Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Suite 628, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), no recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

This notice has been determined to be not significant and was not reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget in conformance with Executive Order 12866. The affected programs are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.553, No. 10.555, No. 10.556, No. 10.558, and No. 10.559 and are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 2 CFR Part 415).

Background

Pursuant to sections 9(b)(1) and 17(c)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1) and 42 U.S.C. 1766(c)(4)), and sections 3(a)(6) and 4(e)(1)(A) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1772(a)(6) and 1773(e)(1)(A)), the Department annually issues the Income Eligibility Guidelines for free and reduced price meals for the National School Lunch Program (7 CFR Part 210), the Commodity School Program (7 CFR Part 210), School Breakfast Program (7 CFR Part 220), Summer Food Service Program (7 CFR Part 225) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (7 CFR Part 226) and the guidelines for free milk in the Special Milk Program for Children (7 CFR Part

215).

These eligibility guidelines are based on the Federal income poverty guidelines and are stated by household size. The guidelines are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk in accordance with applicable program rules.

Definition of Income

In accordance with the Department's policy as provided in the Food and Nutrition Service publication Eligibility Manual for School Meals, "income," as the term is used in this notice, means income before any deductions such as income taxes, Social Security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions, and bonds. It includes the following: (1) monetary compensation for services, including wages, salary, commissions or fees; (2) net income from nonfarm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) Social Security; (5) dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts; (6) net rental income; (7) public assistance or welfare payments; (8) unemployment compensation; (9) government civilian employee or military retirement, or pensions or veterans payments; (10) private pensions or annuities; (11) alimony or child support payments; (12) regular contributions from persons not living in the household; (13) net royalties; and (14) other cash income. Other cash income would include cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts and other resources that would be available to pay the price of a child's meal.

"Income", as the term is used in this notice, does not include any income or

benefits received under any Federal programs that are excluded from consideration as income by any statutory prohibition. Furthermore, the value of meals or milk to children shall not be considered as income to their households for other benefit programs in accordance with the prohibitions in section 12(e) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and section 11(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1760(e) and 1780(b)).

The Income Eligibility Guidelines

The following are the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be effective from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The Department's guidelines for free meals and milk and reduced price meals were obtained by multiplying the year 2018 Federal income poverty guidelines by 1.30 and 1.85, respectively, and by rounding the result upward to the next whole dollar.

This notice displays only the annual Federal poverty guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services because the monthly and weekly Federal poverty guidelines are not used to determine the Income Eligibility Guidelines. The chart details the free and reduced price eligibility criteria for monthly income, income received twice monthly (24 payments per year); income received every two weeks (26 payments per year) and weekly income.

Income calculations are made based on the following formulas: monthly income is calculated by dividing the annual income by 12; twice monthly income is computed by dividing annual income by 24; income received every two weeks is calculated by dividing annual income by 26; and weekly income is computed by dividing annual income by 52. All numbers are rounded upward to the next whole

dollar.

The numbers reflected in this notice for a family of four in the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, Guam and the territories represent an increase of 2.0 percent over last year's level for a family of the same size.

AUTHORITY: Section 9(b)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1)(A)).

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Effective from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES	REDUCED PRICE MEALS - 185 %					FREE MEALS - 130 %				
	ANNUAL	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
48 CONTIGUOUS STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM, AND TERRITORIES											
1	12,140	22,459	1,872	936	864	432	15,782	1,316	658	607	304
2	16,460	30,451	2,538	1,269	1,172	586	21,398	1,784	892	823	412
3	20,780	38,443	3,204	1,602	1,479	740	27,014	2,252	1,126	1,039	520
4	25,100	46,435	3,870	1,935	1,786	893	32,630	2,720	1,360	1,255	628
5	29,420	54,427	4,536	2,268	2,094	1,047	38,246	3,188	1,594	1,471	736
6	33,740	62,419	5,202	2,601	2,401	1,201	43,862	3,656	1,828	1,687	844
7	38,060	70,411	5,868	2,934	2,709	1,355	49,478	4,124	2,062	1,903	952
8	42,380	78,403	6,534	3,267	3,016	1,508	55,094	4,592	2,296	2,119	1,060
For each add'l family member, add	4,320	7,992	666	333	308	154	5,616	468	234	216	108
ALASKA											
1	15,180	28,083	2,341	1,171	1,081	541	19,734	1,645	823	759	380
2	20,580	38,073	3,173	1,587	1,465	733	26,754	2,230	1,115	1,029	515
3	25,980	48,063	4,006	2,003	1,849	925	33,774	2,815	1,408	1,299	650
4	31,380	58,053	4,838	2,419	2,233	1,117	40,794	3,400	1,700	1,569	785
5	36,780	68,043	5,671	2,836	2,618	1,309	47,814	3,985	1,993	1,839	920
6	42,180	78,033	6,503	3,252	3,002	1,501	54,834	4,570	2,285	2,109	1,055
7	47,580	88,023	7,336	3,668	3,386	1,693	61,854	5,155	2,578	2,379	1,190
8	52,980	98,013	8,168	4,084	3,770	1,885	68,874	5,740	2,870	2,649	1,325
For each add'l family member, add	5,400	9,990	833	417	385	193	7,020	585	293	270	135
HAWAII											
1	13,960	25,826	2,153	1,077	994	497	18,148	1,513	757	698	349
2	18,930	35,021	2,919	1,460	1,347	674	24,609	2,051	1,026	947	474
3	23,900	44,215	3,685	1,843	1,701	851	31,070	2,590	1,295	1,195	598
4	28,870	53,410	4,451	2,226	2,055	1,028	37,531	3,128	1,564	1,444	722
5	33,840	62,604	5,217	2,609	2,408	1,204	43,992	3,666	1,833	1,692	846
6	38,810	71,799	5,984	2,992	2,762	1,381	50,453	4,205	2,103	1,941	971
7	43,780	80,993	6,750	3,375	3,116	1,558	56,914	4,743	2,372	2,189	1,095
8	48,750	90,188	7,516	3,758	3,469	1,735	63,375	5,282	2,641	2,438	1,219
For each add'l family member, add	4,970	9,195	767	384	354	177	6,461	539	270	249	125

April 18, 2018

Date

Brandon Lipps,
Administrator,
Food and Nutrition Service.

